

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 /012 R

DRAFTED BY CU/EA:CHILL:YLP

APPROVED BY CU/EA:FBTENNY

EA/PRCM - AROMBERG (DRAFT)

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R 221956Z FEB 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035787

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: US-PRC WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT ABOUT CULTURAL
EXCHANGES 74/5

THERE FOLLOWS WEEKLY REPORT PREPARED IN CU/EA FOR PERIOD
FEBRUARY 13-21, 1974

THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PICTURE AT PRESENT

1. WE HAVE HAD MIXED SIGNALS FROM PRCLO OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS MAKING IT UNCLEAR HOW EXCHANGES MAY BE AFFECTED, IF AT ALL, BY THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN IN THE PRC. TWO WEEKS AGO, AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF SLUGGISH PRC RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTS TO FIRM UP ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS YEAR'S EXCHANGE SCHEDULE, A PRCLO OFFICER TOLD A VISITOR THAT THE US-PRC EXCHANGE PROGRAM WAS AT A "STANDSTILL". AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, A COUPLE OF IMPORTANT AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS REPORTED TO US THAT THEY FELT PRCLO WAS TURNING COOLER TOWARD THEIR PROPOSED PROJECTS. AND LATE LAST MONTH A PRCMUN OFFICIAL LECTURED A HARVARD PROFESSOR ON THE TOPIC OF US CHINA SCHOLARS AS "UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE REVOLUTION AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS", A DIATRIBE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN BY SOME HARVARD FACULTY AS SIGNALLING THE END OF PRC TOLERANCE OF US ACADEMIC "OBJECTIVITY" ON
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CHINA.

, THE OTHER HAND, THIS WEEK'S NEWS SEEMS BRIGHTER.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS WEEK'S NEWS SEEMS BRIGHTER.

THE SAME PRCLO OFFICER WHO TWO WEEKS BEFORE CALLED EXCHANGES AT A "STANDSTILL" THIS WEEK WENT TO UNUSUAL LENGTHS TO TRACK DOWN AN AMERICAN HYDRAULIC ENGINEER FROM COLORADO TO CONVEY THE NEWS THAT HIS GROUP OF EROSION EXPERTS WERE APPROVED FOR AN APRIL VISIT TO THE PRC. ON FEBRUARY 20 ANOTHER PRCLO OFFICIAL TOLD AN AMERICAN CALLER THAT US PRESS REPORTS OF RECENT EVENTS IN CHINA WERE "INACCURATE AND MALICIOUS", AND THAT "THERE IS CONSTANT REVOLUTION IN CHINA". HE SAID THE PRC REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE EXCHANGE PROPOSALS AGREED UPON IN NOVEMBER AND THAT EXCHANGES WOULD INCREASE. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY NEWS THAT TWO NON-USG-FACILITATED DELEGATIONS (WAYNE STATE AND YALE) HAD RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR MAY VISITS TO THE PRC. AND PRCLO INFORMED THE CSC FEBRUARY 21 THAT CSC'S ACUPUNCURE AND HERBAL MEDICINE DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR VISITS OF TWO WEEKS IN MAY AND THREE WEEKS IN JUNE, RESPECTIVELY. NO SPECIFIC DATES WERE GIVEN.

3. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE REPORTS SUGGEST TO US THAT PRCLO MAY HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO COUNTERACT PRESS REPORTS THAT ANOTHER CULTURAL REVOLUTION IS IN THE OFFING AND TO REAFFIRM THE PRC'S COMMITMENT TO THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. ALSO, THE TIMING OF THE LATEST CHINESE APPROVALS INDICATES AN EXPECTATION ON THEIR PART THAT BY LATE APRIL CONDITIONS IN CHINA WILL BE SUITABLE FOR FOREIGN DELEGATIONS. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL EXCHANGES, CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS, UNIVERSITIES, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE035787
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CHILL:YLP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740215/aaaaanqx.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <21 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-PRC WEEKLY ACTIVITIES REPORT ABOUT CULTURAL EXCHANGES 74/5
TAGS: SCUL, CH, US, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY, YALE UNIVERSITY
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005